

Strange &
Lamentable News
from the
County of Essex
etc.

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1661

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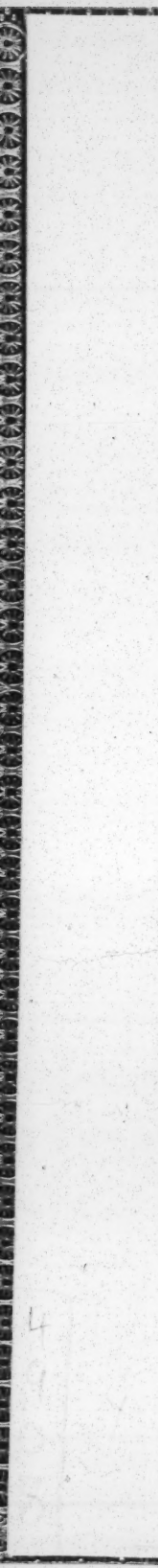
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Strange and Lamentable

NEWS

FROM THE

County of Essex:

BEING

A true Relation of a Wonderful and

Sad Accident which happned on *Tuesday* the tenth of *July*,
to a Country Farmer near *Witham* in the said County,
who being in a Field at Plow, flung a Stone at
one of his Horses, and slew his Boy, and
afterwards went home, and hang'd
himself in his own Orchard.

Also the manner how his Wife (leaving her young Child on a Table)
followed him into the Orchard, and returning again
finding the Childes Neck broke, she
took a Knife and kill'd her self.

*The truth of this is averred by Mr. Ponder Minister living in
the aforesaid Town of Witham.*

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A PERFECT
ACCOUNT
 OF A
Strange and Wonderful Accident
 that happened near *Witbam* in *Essex*, on *Tuesday*
 last being the 10th of *July* 1661.



his short Relation is so wonderful, that the like hath not been heard off or known by the oldest now living, though many bloody and inhumane acts have too lately been performed in and about this City, the which I need not here insert: they have already been published, but none more lamented than these who were desperately murderd by their own hands: therefore I shall only instance one which is that committed by *Joyce Ebbs* on her Husband *Tho. Ebbs*,

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may somewhat Parrallel this of self Murther, the true Narrative whereof follows, viz.

Upon Tuesday the 10 instant, Tho. Ebbs a Souldier coming home, he found his wife sitting at the table, and examining her pouch, he being not open'd his doublet, and desiring a Pipe of Tobacco she told him he should have none, but going to the box where he used to lay it, she started up with a Knife in her hand, and stab'd him in the Brea't, he taking no great notice of what she did, in a jesting way flung his hat at her, with which she in earnest most desperately stab'd him in the belly, and yet was not satisfied till she had made a third assault and stab'd him again.

Since which bloody murther, upon her examination she says He was not her Husband, thinking thereby to scape the better, but the Law is more just then to pardon such bloody offenders.

Thus through the Devils suggestion she being given over to her self acted this bloody fact, and in the like nature was the following story acted, which is as followeth, viz.

A true account of the sad and much to be lamented accident that hapned near Witham in the County of Essex, as it came from Mr. Ponder a Minister in the said Town.

This strange accident happened near Witham in the County of Essex; and fell upon Tuesday the 10 of July, whence a Country Farmer going into the field to his labour, when he was at Plow, finding his Horses dull, he took up a stone and flung at the Fore-horse, but missing the horse he hit his Boy and he immediatly fell down dead in the place, not so much as uttering a word.

When the Farmer see how unfortunately he had murdered his Boy, he was much troubled, and despairing of mercy he lamented deeply the losse of his Lad more then the future good of his own soul, as will in the next place more clearly appear.

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For hereupon he went strait to his own house, and told his Wife, that he had killed his Boy by an accident, relating the whole business to her, which having done, he made towards the Orchard, and upon one of the Trees he desperately hang'd himself.

His Wife fearing some such intention followed him (thinking thereby to keep him from laying Violent hands on himself) leaving her young Child on the Table, and coming to the Orchard too late, she full of grief of heart returned, where she found her Child lying dead on the ground.

When the poor woman saw this, she was still more afflicted, and the Devil watching an opportunity, set upon the weak woman, who at this time being left to her self, through his Suggestion was soon inticed to make away her self also.

To perform which, she lookt for a Knife, and when she had found it, she in a cruel and bloody manner added a scene to this sad Tragedy, and Murdered her self.

Thus in this sad and lamentable way the whole Family's destroyed in a moment, which indeed, were not God more mercifull to us, we might all be guilty of.

This Relation for justification will be averred by Mr. *Pender* a Minister in *Witham*, and by severall other persons of credit, living in the said Town, who not only knew the Farmer and his Wife, but were also familiar acquaintance of his in the time of his life, which the more doth add to their grief for him, with whom they were often times in Society.

These persons only through want of faith, and by Satans Allurements were drawn into despair, as for example, we have in Scripture many, as *Achitophel*, who after his wicked
Counsel

Counsel to *Absolon* against his own Father King *David*, went home to his own house and hang'd himself.

So *Saul* that man of might with his Sword-bearer being persued by the enemy, set his Sword to his breast and slew himself, looking more upon his honour then his end.

We read likewise in History of one named *Judas*, who going to the Wars out of his own Country, in the time of his youth, was drawn out amongst others to besiege his own Countrey, and in process of time came to the same place where his Father liv'd, who indeed he knew not; but amongst other Souldiers came into his Fathers Orchard to get Apples, and the old man his unknown Father coming forth in anger, he up with a stake and knockt him down, so that he dyed.

The Laws in that Country being to this effect, that whoever kill'd a man should dye, or, if no, marry a Widow, which *Judas* was forced to do accordingly; and being marryed, after they had been some small time married, he trusting himself, she spy'd a Mole in his back, which put into her memory the Son that was gone from her, upon which she questioned the businets, and finding him to be the same, she was so much troubled that she dyed, and he betook himself again to travel, but in few years after, he desperately ended his own life as the story saith, by hanging himself on a Tree. Which was the end of him who Murthered his own Father, and committnd incest with his own Mother, a heavy Judgment for all such cruel and desperate Murtherers.

I might here also insert *Judas Iscariot*, and the Judgment that fell upon *Absolon*, who was for his Rebellion to his Father hang'd by the haire of the head, and that desperate flaver Alderman *Hoyle* of *York* (that grand Enemy of th't blessed Martyr King *Charles* the first) who also hang'd himself in his own house) and many more, but these may suffice the Reader.

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These sad and heavy Judgements may be a warning to all those who desperately go on in sin, lest they be left to themselves, they being as ready (without Gods great Mercy to fall into the like danger, the Devil always watching as a Lyon for his prey, and seeing but the least occasion, is ready to perswade men that they are lost, thereby to drive them into desperation, and that to the strengthening of his own black Kingdom, and the utter destruction of them both soul and body; from whose wicked enterprises, the Lord deliver all good Christians, and give them hearts to praise him for his Mercy in their preservation, ;

FINIS,

